

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03606 151025Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 GSA-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10

SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

TAR-02 AGR-20 INT-08 RSR-01 /201 W

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P R 150954Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4972

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 3606

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND

SUBJECT: RUBBER DISPOSALS

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY ECON OFFICER WAS CALLED TO MFA TODAY AND GIVEN AIDE MEMOIRE REQUESTING US TO INCREASE RUBBER DISPOSALS TO 30,000 TONS PER MONTH, SUBJECT TO REDUCTION TO 10,000 TONS PER MONTH IF PRICE DROPS BELOW M\$60 CENTS PER POUND. EMBASSY COMMENTS IN SEPTTEL. MFA NOTE FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA, PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE CURRENT US RUBBER STOCKPILE DISPOSAL PROGRAMME WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED IN JULY, 1973 AT THE RATE OF 10,000 TONS PER MONTH OR 120,000 TONS PER ANNUM. THE CURRENT PROGRAMME IS A REVISION
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PAGE 02 KUALA 03606 151025Z

OF THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED IN MAY, 1973 AT THE RATE

OF 8,333 TONS PER MONTH OR 100,000 TONS PER ANNUM.

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING HIGH PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER, THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER INCREASING THE PRESENT RATE OF RELEASE FROM HER RUBBER STOCKPILE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT THE RATE OF DISPOSAL BE INCREASED TO 30,000 TONS PER MONTH SUBJECT TO THE CUT-OFF PRICE OF 60 CENTS PER LB. F.O.B. KUALA LUMPUR. IF AT ANY TIME THE PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER SHOULD FALL BELOW 60 CENTS PER LB. F.O.B. KUALA LUMPUR, THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVERT TO THE CURRENT DISPOSAL PROGRAMME I.E. 10,000 TONS PER MONTH OR 120,000 TONS PER ANNUM.

IN SEEKING THE US GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THE DISPOSAL RATE AS ABOVE, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS DESIROUS OF MAINTAINING THE NATURAL RUBBER PRICE AT A MORE REASONABLE LEVEL WHILST AT THE SAME TIME THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO DISPOSE HER SURPLUS RUBBER WITHIN A MUCH SHORTER PERIOD.

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE NEED TO EXPAND THE PRESENT THAWING AND TRANSPORTATION CAPACITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASE IN THE DISPOSAL RATE. IT IS FELT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THIS RESPECT.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA, AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.
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